# WEST POINT'S CODE DUELLO.

## Unwritten Law at Uncle Sam's War School Makes Every Man Settle His Honor with Bare Fists.

Up at West Point the cadets are eagerly discussing two pugilistic encounters which have just taken place among them in accordance with the time-honored traditions of the United States Military Academy. From a scientific standpoint these bouts are said to compare favorably with the most notable encounters in the history of the prize ring. For sensational hitting one of them rivals the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight at Carson City.

This was the encounter that took place between Cadet Private W. L. Murphy, of Iowa, and Cadet Sergeant J. B. Cowan, of this State. Murphy is now regarded as one of the most scientific fighters that West Point has produced. Both men belong to the same class.

A dispute over an order was the cause of the row, and the men met before daybreak a week ago last Friday. Murphy weighed in at 155 pounds, and stood five feet six inches. Cowan was ten pounds heavier and two inches taller.

But in spite of these advantages, it was apparent from the start that he was no equal for his antagonist. In every round Murphy landed with telling effect.

Cowan bravely stood up under his terrific punishment. He could offer no successful resistence to Murphy's pounding, nor could he land any blows where they would do damage.

For four rounds Cowan resisted the appeals of his seconds to acknowledge defeat. They advised him to throw up the sponge.

At the end of the fourth round a slashing blow from Murphy's right caught Cowan squarely in the eyes. He struggled to his feet. Just as reveille sounded Murphy again landed on Cowan's jaw, knocking out the New Yorker. Murphy was not badly damaged, and was able to report for duty.

During the same week Cadet Sergeant Curtis G. Otwell, of Ohio, was put to sleep at the end of a hotly contested, bare-knuckled, six-round fight with Cadet Humphreys. Otwell and Cowan, badly bruised, were both taken to the hospital, but have since recovered.

Prize fighting at the West Point Military Academy is as much a part of the training of our future Grants and Shermans as their daily dissertations on civil and military engineering and their elucidation of the mathematical and philosophical formulas propounded by Professors Bass and Michie. It must not be understood by this, however, that any of the learned and dignified members of the Academic Board draw diagrams and charts of imaginary mêlées of battles or illustrate orally how our future warriors should handle their knuckles in a pugilistic engagement.

But Uncle Sam does pay Professor Herman J. Koehler, an authority on athletics, to make the gray coated youths as adept in the art of scientific pugilism as they are in applied scientific modern warfare. The triumphs and defeats of the cadet prize ring are idelibly connected with the traditions of the academy.

The cadets of to-day tell of mighty pugilistic events fought away back during the days of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and other soldiers whose fame illumines pages of American history. Every alumnus of West Point recalls with pride the pugilistic achievements of Colonel Grant when he and Cadet "Quinny" Gillmore met and settled their differences in a twenty-four foot ring. This was one of the academy's noted battles.

Young Grant's father was then President of the United States, and "Quinny" Gillmore's father was one of the best known engineer officers in the army. The battle was a fierce one, and because of the prominence of the father of each of the young fellows it created a sensation. Each class produces its pugilistic captain, and he is a greater idol among the cadets than the young men who win laurels for their intellectual qualities.

Battles in the West Point prize ring are planned and executed with many formalities. It is an unwritten law among the cadets that all petty squabbles, all differences which can be adjusted in no other way, must be settled in accordance with the prize ring rules. The great fight which took place a year ago between Cadet Murphy, of the first class, and a plebe named Owen, illustrates just how the war of fists and knuckles is waged at the Military Academy.

A classmate of Murphy met Owen in the commissary one morning and ordered him to go and stand in the corner with his face to the wall. "I will do anything that a man ought to do," responded the "plebe," "but that I decline to do." For a "plebe" to defy the orders of a first classman is as great a crime at West Point as the refusal of an officer in time of war to disregard the orders of the general in chief.

The members of the first class met, discussed the treason of the "plebe," and resolved that his refusal to obey orders was "an insult to the whole class." Investigation, however, showed that Owen was no match physically for the man whose orders he disobeyed. He weighed much less, and was several inches shorter than the aggrieved upper classman. A meeting of the class was then called, and after lengthy debate Murphy was chosen to uphold the class honor.

A declaration of war was sent to Owen, in which it was stated that he must do battle for his violation of an unwritten law of the Academy. Accordingly the men selected seconds, and then representatives of each class met and a referee was decided upon. No fight is fought until the classes to which the opponents belong sanction it and arrange the preliminaries. Every man who fights must be weighed, measured and examined as to his pugilistic prowess, and if in any respect the men are unevenly matched, the classes meet and select others to do the fighting. Refusal to answer the summons of the class is high treason. There is no record where a cadet has shown the white flag.

Brutality violates the West Point pugilistic code, and is exceptional. All fights must, when possible, be fought before sunrise. In the dusk of early morning the principals, seconds and referee quietly leave their quarters, and unseen, repair to the battle ground.

Sightseers are positively debarred.

Cadets fight for the maintenance of a principle, not for the edification of curiosity seekers. They are taught that war should be waged only when some vital issue is at stake. To pugilism the same ethics are applied, and insistence on this point is a cardinal feature of all encounters at the nation's military school.

Few know where the cadets pitch their ring. Sometimes it is in an unoccupied room in the south wing of the barrack, or, as the cadets call it, "the Ninth Div." It is a room on the third story, about thirty feet in length and twenty-five feet in width. It is stripped of furniture, is secluded, and because of its availability for pugilistic bouts is known as the "fighting room." But all the famous fights usually take place in historic Fort Clinton, of revolutionary fame, overlooking the Hudson.

In the midst of mementoes of the struggle for independence the fighters gather, and before reveille is sounded at 5 o'clock the battle is fought and won. It usually happens that one or the other of the combatants is injured.

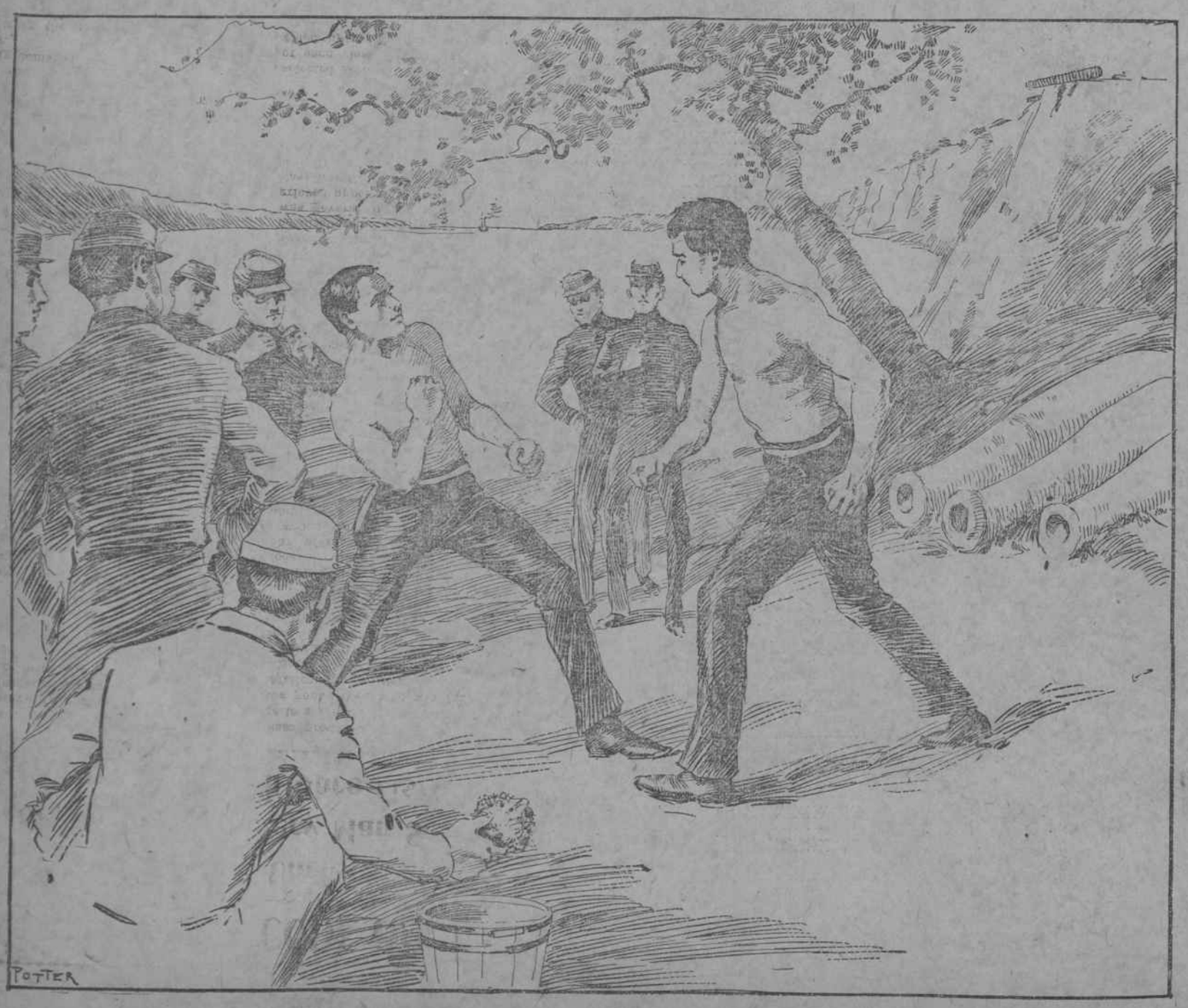
It is here that another custom peculiar to West Point manifests itself. A delegation of the wounded man's classmates is sent for, they repair to the gory field, carry off the fallen hero, deposit him in the care of the hospital attendants and hustle back to quarters, without leaving their names or saying how the man was injured. So accustomed have the attendants become to this that they merely put the wounded man to bed and send for the surgeon. A newsgatherer might as well try to get information from one of the many brass relics of Chapultapec, Monterey and other conflicts of the Mexican war scattered about Trophy Point as to get information from the cadets or the attendants.

According to West Point etiquette, prize fighting is not a serious breach of military discipline, unless there is some unexceptionable incident of brutality connected with it, and it is very rarely that the officers take any notice of these little affairs. In explaining this a young army officer said to a Sunday Journal representative:

"It is very unusual when these fights in any way violate the spirit of discipline maintained at the Academy. Because of the rigid code of honor which prevails among the cadets they exercise a healthy, and not a demoralizing, influence on them. It is true, if an officer discovered a fight in progress he would be bound to take notice of it and have the offenders disciplined.

"But when the young fellows have some grievance and meet in an honorable way to get satisfaction, it is little or no serious crime. We do all in our power to prevent these outbreaks, but they are bound to occur occasionally. They are not subversive of discipline, nor do they do any harm to any, only the feelings of the extremely sensitive.

"We object, however, to the publicity given these affairs. The outside public do not understand the peculiar conditions which prevail at the Academy, and when they hear of them they look upon them as ordinary, brutal prize fights. They are not, being only the cadet way of settling differences which cannot be adjusted in any other way. A principle is always involved, and cadets never fight for mere sport."



"IS A WAY THEY HAVE AT WEST POINT."

# Mr. Mastodon, According to the Latest Scientific Reconstruction of the Monster.

# The First Gentleman Who Ever Walked Up Broadway.

## DOGS HAVE NERVES.

### French Scientist Declares the Canine Race to Be Subject to Human Ills.

Among the many thousands who visited the recent dog show, probably only a few ever considered the notion that dogs are subject to human ills—that is, to the same maladies that make life miserable to their masters and mistresses. Yet this is the case, as Dr. Megnin, a French authority on nervous diseases, tells us.

The physician, in a lecture delivered before the Paris Academie de Medicine, pointed out that the brain of the dog is more highly developed than that of any other animal, in fact, that it resembles the human brain in some aspects, especially in the way of receiving impressions from outward circumstances, moral and physical.

"Our friend, the dog," said Dr. Megnin, "is frequently a sufferer from the social miseries of the day. Being a constant attendant upon human beings, he shares their joys and sorrows; he is made to feel, directly and indirectly, when his master or mistress experiences reverses of fortune, or is disposed to melancholy or fits of frivolity.

"Incidentally the dog is subjected more than any other animal to privations; with his proprietor he occasionally suffers hunger and thirst. But these are not the only reasons why so many dogs nowadays suffer from nervousness; the ceaseless experiments in the line of race perfection that lead to all sorts of blood mixtures are responsible even in a more pronounced degree for this condition.

"I do not hesitate to say that of the thousands of dogs, some pets of the family and their masters' best friends, annually killed because they act queerly, and are suspected of hydrophobia on that account, over 75 per cent die innocently.

"Their symptoms are human in the extreme. Like numerous nervous men and women, they are subject to excitability at infrequent intervals, they exhibit epileptic signs, are morose, lazy, lose their appetite. Finally they turn against their masters and those they love best, growl at them and even injure them.

"In the intervals between these fits the dog acts as usual; he seems to be happy and in perfect health, eats and drinks normally, recognizes his master and plays with the children, just as a nervous person will do who, at times, becomes an object of fear and trepidation to his or her surroundings."

## The Beast That Used to Boss Manhattan Island.

IN the Quaternary Age, which was very recent according to geology, but countless ages ago according to ordinary history, Manhattan Island was inhabited by many strange beasts. The Quaternary is the latest geological age, the one in which man appeared on the earth. Perhaps there were men on Manhattan Island at the time in question, but of them there is no record. Geologists know at least that gigantic animals, extinct to-day, inhabited it.

The Tertuary Age, preceding the Quaternary, is known as the age of mammals. In the latter part of the first and the beginning of the second period the warm-blooded animals attained a wonderful physical development, far beyond anything known in the world to-day. In earlier ages reptiles, fishes and birds had flourished and declined. The mammals were superior to these, and they seem to have lived on the fat of the earth and flourished accordingly. Then man came, and they no longer had things to themselves. After man will another and stronger race make its appearance?

Among the mammals of the Tertiary and Quaternary Ages gigantic elephantine creatures were very numerous and naturally conspicuous. The mastodons were the most typical of them. Our modern elephants are obviously nearly related to them, and it is important here to remember that they are the most powerful and intelligent of all existing animals. One can easily imagine that the mastodons ruled a world into which man had not yet intruded.

The mastodon such as haunted the wilds of Manhattan Island and other parts of North America was fifteen feet or more in height at the shoulder, that is, five feet more than the biggest of modern elephants, a very considerable difference. Its tusks were very different from those of the elephant, being much longer and curving outward. In some cases they measured over ten feet. The powers of these weapons must have been enormous, and they would have enabled the mastodon to tear down trees and root up immense quantities of herbage. Probably he was a peaceable beast, for, like his modern relative, he was herbivorous, but he would have been a bad animal to irritate. With one blow of a tusk he could have killed the largest of tigers as easily as a cat kills a mouse. His hide was plentifully covered with long hair, therein differing markedly from the elephant. It is an undecided question, but it is probable that mastodons lived on this continent down to the time of man.

The fossil of one mastodon has been discovered in the Miocene strata, which possesses four tusks, two in the upper and two in the lower jaw. More than one four-tusked species has existed.

Another extinct elephantine creature is the dinotherium, which grew to an even greater size than the mastodon, and disappeared from the earth in a much earlier age. The skull of one of these creatures found at Eppelsheim, in Hesse Darmstadt, was four feet long and three feet broad. It is calculated that this animal measured eighteen feet in length.

Its tusks curved downward instead of upward, as in the mastodons and the elephants. Their purpose, it is conjectured, was to drag up aquatic plants by the roots from the river bottoms and to assist it in climbing out of the water. The dinotherium lived in an age when the earth was more generally covered with water and when there were no trees such as the elephants feed on.

It is interesting to know something of the process by which this continent was built up to be a home for the mastodon and finally for man. In the earliest geological times it was a mere archipelago. Its chief island was a great V-shaped area surrounding what is now Hudson's Bay. To the southeast an island that is now the Adirondack Mountains, and another that is now the Jersey Highlands, rose above the waste of waters. Far away to the south stretched a line of islands that were to become the Blue Ridge Mountains. Far off to the westward another line of islands represented the present Pacific coast.

By the denudation of these islands, which towered miles above their present height, and the deposits of organic life, the continent was gradually formed. In the Silurian age invertebrate animals were the dominant types. Then came fishes in the Paleozoic period. Toward the close of this the Appalachian Mountains were upheaved to the height of several miles. They have since been worn down.

In the ensuing Mesozoic period multitudes of strange reptiles, some that flew and measured twenty-five feet from wing to wing, peopled the earth. In this age the Sierra Nevada Mountains were formed.

For ages there remained a great interior sea, in which the land uprose and formed but recently—in the Tertiary Age—the Rocky Mountains.

Then came the Glacial epoch. The ice extended southward to about the fortieth parallel, driving some animals before it and destroying those that were unable to avoid it. At its height the ice lay a mile in depth over New England. At the place where it melted away its terminal moraine built up Long Island and Staten Island and other similar land formations.